



8-30-02
PATENT
Docket No. 54989US002
#12/D
flwr.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

RICHARD P. RUSIN and JAMES D.
HANSEN

Serial No.: 09/383,560
Filed: August 26, 1999

For: CERAMIC DENTAL MILL
BLANKS

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: R. Lewis

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AUG 29 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of the above-referenced patent application which is being submitted as a Continued Prosecution Application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d). Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to taking the application up for review.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims of the application as follows:

Please cancel claim 20.

Please add new claims 55 to 79:

1. 55. (New) A method of making a dental prosthesis for repairing or restoring dentition, the method comprising the steps:

- (a) providing a crystalline ceramic mill blank in which the crystalline ceramic has a density greater than about 98% of the theoretical density of the crystalline ceramic;
- (b) milling the crystalline ceramic mill blank provided in step (a) into the shape of the dental prosthesis; and